

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 01569 281048Z

14-10

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 023204

O R 280853Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4599

AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

S E C R E T TAIPEI 1569

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS MASS VS TW

SUBJECT: LST LOAN

REF: A. TAIPEI 1535 B. USDAO TAIPEI 280819Z MAR 75

1. IN THE COURSE OF THE EVENING OF MARCH 27, PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO, GENERAL LAI MING-TANG AND ADMIRAL SUNG CH'ANG-CHIH TOLD ME THAT PLANS WERE WELL ADVANCED FOR THE INITIAL DESPATCH OF TWO ROCN LST'S WITH CREWS AND THAT THEY HOPED TO SEND A NAVY LIAISON OFFICER BY AIR TO SAIGON ON OR ABOUT MARCH 29 TO COORDINATE SEALIFT OPERATIONS WITH GVN AUTHORITIES (FYI. WE UNDERSTAND THIS OFFICER IS ROC NAVY CAPTAIN YANG YUN-SUO).

2. THEY TOLD ME THEY WOULD PROBABLY BE ABLE TO SEND TWO MORE LST'S IF, AFTER THE ADVANCE LIAISON OFFICER HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO SIZE UP THE SITUATION, IT APPEARED THEY WERE STILL NEEDED AND COULD BE USED EFFECTIVELY. ADMIRAL SUNG ESTIMATED THAT LST'S COULD CARRY AS MANY AS 2,000 PERSONS AND INDICATED THAT HIS STAFF HAD ALREADY ANTICIPATED SOME OF THE PROBLEMS OF ACCOMMODATING LARGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES ON BOARD SHIP.

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PREMIER STATED LST'S WOULD CARRY EXTRA RATIONS OF RICE TO BE

PREPARED TO HELP WITH SITUATION THEY FOUND ON ARRIVAL.

3. I TOLD PREMIER CHIANG THAT WE HAD ASKED OUR EMBASSY IN SAIGON TO FIND OUT IF THE GVN COULD USE ROCAF C-119'S AND WE WERE MOMENTARILY AWAITING A REPLY. THE PREMIER SAID THAT GENERAL LAI HAD ALSO SPOKEN TO HIM ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF OFFERING AIR LIFT AND THAT GROC WAS DISPOSED TO MAKE AS MANY AS TEN C-119'S AVAILABLE IF THEY COULD BE PUT TO EFFECTIVE USE.

4. COMMENT: FROM OTHER SOURCES WE LEARNED TODAY CHINESE INFORMED BY GVN C-119'S NOT REQUIRED; PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WISH US TO SAY ANYTHING TO CHINESE ON THIS MATTER.

5. SINCE DRAFTING OF THE ABOVE TDC HAS LEARNED FROM MND TWO LST'S WILL DEPART TSOYING 1800 HOURS MARCH 28 AND TWO MORE AT 1800 ON MARCH 29, ETA DANANG APRIL 3 AND 4.

6. I SUGGEST THAT DEPT REPEAT THIS CABLE TO SECDEF, JCS AND CINCPAC, AND REQUEST AUTHORITY TO PASS OUR MESSAGES ON THIS SUBJECT(INCLUDING EXDIS) TO THOSE MILITARY ADDRESSES.

UNGER

SECRET

NNN

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